

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05557 271330Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 AID-05 ABF-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /078 W
-----093257 280930Z /17
R 271255Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6471
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF ICEM AO PO
SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: (A) STATE 161495, (B) GENEVA 1623, (C) GENEVA 1117

1. UNHCR IN LISBON (CUNHA) TOLD CONOFF THAT HE WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY IN SECURING SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO REPATRIATE TO ANGOLA ANGOLAN REFUGEES NOW IN PORTUGAL. CUNHA SAID THAT HE HAD \$220,000 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND A PROMISE OF \$75,000 FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL OF THE \$660,000 REQUIRED TO TRANSPORT THE 2,000 REFUGEES WHO ARE NOW REGISTERED WITH UNHCR FOR RETURN. CUNHA SAID THAT 600 OF THESE 2,000 ARE IMMEDIATELY READY TO GO AND THAT ALL ARE RETURNING TO ANGOLA FREELY AND WITHOUT DURESS FOR ECONOMIC AND/OR FAMILY REASONS.

2. CUNHA SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL, JOAO SEBASTIAO, AND IN EXPLAINING HIS DIFFICULTY IN SECURING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THIS REPATRIATION, TOLD SEBASTIAO THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO ASK OTHER COUNTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. THE ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT
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PAGE 02 LISBON 05557 271330Z

HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE UNITED STATES IN HIS RESPONSE.

3. CUNHA THEN ASKED CONOFF, MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THIS WAS A LOW LEVEL INQUIRY, WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN

THIS REPATRIATION EFFORT. HE SAID THAT IF THE ANGOLANS NOW REGISTERED ARE RESETTLED SUCCESSFULLY, MANY THOUSANDS OF OTHER ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL MIGHT ALSO APPLY TO RETURN TO ANGOLA. THIS EFFORT, HE WENT ON, WOULD BENEFIT BOTH PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA. CONOFF GAVE A NON-COMMITTAL REPLY, BUT PROMISED TO PASS THE INQUIRY TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND NOTED THAT AN ANSWER, IF ANY, MIGHT BE SOME TIME IN COMING.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR A REPLY TO CUNHA.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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